

From: Justin Aichele
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 7:35pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I am submitting my comments for the Microsoft Anti-trust case. During this case, the evidence that I saw clearly demonstrated that Microsoft tried to destroy competitors like Sun and Apple and Netscape and increase their market share underhandedly rather than by trying to make the better product and win customers by their own choices. This evidence is crystal clear according to what I saw on the internet that was posted by major news organizations who were covering the case.

Personally, I don't necessarily have a problem with a company dominating a particular market or industry. In conversations with friends, I compare Microsoft to Cisco. Cisco has almost as much market share for networking equipment as Microsoft does for operating systems. In fact, 3Com gave up their core switch market because they could not compete with Cisco. I've personally dealt with both Microsoft and Cisco as a customer and as a technician. The difference is this: Cisco listens to their customers and doesn't try to force them into making decisions they don't want to make. They got to number 1 because they built a better product. It is usually priced higher, but the quality matches the price. As a whole, Cisco cares about their customers and doesn't try to dictate to them how things are gonna be done. It doesn't try to exert too much control and take away free choice. Based on Microsoft's recent licensing schemes, it sure seems like Microsoft would love to take away choice from people. They want a revenue stream when they want it and if it doesn't happen that way, then they will penalize people by not allowing them to upgrade for reasonable prices. Microsoft to me displays intense arrogance that has basically gone unchecked. They have something to leverage, though, otherwise people would have left a long time ago. I think that for the health of computing in general, they should be split up. I think a ton of new products would emerge if it was split up. Microsoft wants total control of things and they mask that as services. Services are great to offer, but they become chains when there's no other option. Microsoft wants to eliminate options from people and they have not done a darn thing to earn my trust. I would never trust them with my financial information on one of their servers. It's my info and it'll stay that way.

The bottom line is that this company has grown to be huge in both legitimate ways and in illegitimate ways. Their recent behavior shows that they would love to continue to leverage their control in unethical ways. Split them up and then let's see what happens. The world will recover, and will probably thrive if you guys would stand up to this mega-company and show them that US laws are put into place for a reason.

Hope this helps.

Justin Aichele

"He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose"--Jim Eliot, missionary to Ecuador.